

St. Joseph's

Rensselaer

Oct 15/1888

Monon, Ind Oct 15/ 1888

Rev. Dear Father Willard,

You will kindly excuse me, if I address your reverence confidentially. Recalling to my mind the remark your Rev made last night, referring to Rev. Father Stephan's intentions, of entrusting the Indian Industrial School at Rensselaer, to some religious order other than gov't naturally struck me. Suppose F. Stephan's intention be realized, to which religious family would he apply? Two religious communities to be established, side by side so near together, I think would not work well.

Hence, I'll speak to you as a friend. In case you—Rev. F Stephan and yourself, should sooner or later come to the conclusion of giving the management of the Institution to a R. Order, I herewith offer the service of our Congregation. I was very sorry, of not being able to accept Rev. Fr. Stephan's offer in reference to New Mexico, however generous it was and highly appreciated by our Society. But now, I'll bring every reasonable sacrifice, before I see some other Religious society take charge of the Institution. I could sooner now shift to find the necessary men. We have some well qualified students in our Seminary, advanced already in their studies who could teach classes etc.

Sisters are there already: one or two more priests, with a staff of teachers, would complete the forces needed to run the Ind. The Master of Mechanics and Laborers you hired could remain.

This my application, I desire, of course, to influence you and Rev. F Stephan, only, under the supposition, you should conclude, to give the management of the Ind. School to some Rel. Order.

With sincere regards, and best wishes, I remain your Bro. in Xto,

Henry Dries C.P.P.S.